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Patent  
Customer No.: 022870  
Docket No.: 21112.002US

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
PATENT OPERATIONS**

Applicant: HINTON, Golden S.  
Application No.: 10/642317  
Filing Date: 15 August 2003  
Title: VEHICLE OF NOVEL  
CONFIGURATION AND  
OPERATION

Art Unit: 3616  
Examiner: Rosenberg, L.  
Confirmation No.: 2852

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

31 March 2005

Commissioner of Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following is being submitted in response to the Office Action dated  
04 February 2005 from examiner Laura B. Rosenberg of Art Unit 3616.

**Status** begins on page 2.

**Specification Amendments** begin on page 3.

**Claims Amendments** begin on page 4.

**Remarks** begin on page 15.

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I certify that I have deposited this document with the United States Postal Service as First  
Class Mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents,  
PO Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2005.

  
Laurence P. Colton

## **STATUS**

The above-captioned patent application is pending.

Claims 1-55 are pending.

Claims 1-46, 51 and 55 are rejected.

Claims 47-50 and 52-54 are objected to as being depending on a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the underlying base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-19, 26, 29-43, 45, 46, 51 and 55 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5401055 to Pham (Pham '055).

Claims 11, 12, 14-30, 34-40, 42, and 44 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5048864 to Geiger (Geiger '864).

Figure 9 was objected to as failing to show reference sign "P". The drawing has been amended to show the reference sign and a replacement sheet is attached.

## **ADDITIONAL CLAIMS FEES**

This Response is being filed within the three (3) month shortened statutory period for response and no extension of time fees are necessary.

The initial patent application included payment for fifty-five (55) total claims and three (3) independent claims. The application currently includes fifty-three (53) total claims and four (4) independent claims. The additional claims fees of \$100.00 for the additional independent claim, small entity, is enclosed on a Form PTO-2038.